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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

February 28 Messages from US Embassy - Hurriyet  
US Gives Up Plans for Turkish Troop Deployment - Hurriyet  
US Plans to Deploy 100,000 Additional Troops in Iraq -  
Milliyet  
The Times: "Europe Should Recognize the Value of Turkey" -  
Milliyet  
Kurdish Minority 'Gaffe' From Norwegian Prime Minister -  
Milliyet  
No Place for Turkey in US' 6-Month Iraq Plan - Turkiye  
EU Starts Blackmailing: "No Membership without Cyprus" -  
Turkiye  
Erdogan to Visit Cyprus November 15 - Turkiye  
38 People Injured in Protests Against YOK in Ankara -Sabah

#### OPINION MAKERS

Ankara at a Critical Threshold - Cumhuriyet  
9 New Air Corridors in the Aegean - Cumhuriyet  
Investigation Against Headscarf at Kayseri Military  
Reception- Cumhuriyet  
Headscarf Not Accepted in the Courtroom - Radikal  
Thank-You Letter from Powell to Gul - Radikal  
Erdogan: "Cyprus is not a Part of EU Criteria" - Yeni Safak

#### BRIEFING

Reactions to EU Report: "Milliyet" draws attention to  
comments in the western press concerning the EU progress  
report on Turkey. Most western papers criticized the EU for  
being shortsighted, for presenting Turkey with new  
obstacles, and for treating Turkey differently from other EU  
candidate countries. "Turkiye" writes that the EU is trying  
to 'blackmail' Turkey on the Cyprus issue. "Milliyet"  
reports that Prime Minister Erdogan said yesterday that  
Cyprus is not part of EU accession criteria. "Turkiye"  
reports that Erdogan will go to Cyprus November 15 to stress  
the importance of a democratic election process.

Turkish Troop Deployment in Iraq: "Hurriyet" says that the  
Pentagon has released US plans for upcoming troop  
deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Reportedly, the US is  
planning to send 43,000 new troops to Iraq in January 2004  
and to withdraw one division and one brigade. "Hurriyet"  
notes that Turkish troops had not been included in the US  
plans for Iraq. The paper speculates that the US has  
abandoned the idea to send Turkish troops to Iraq.

Aegean Air Corridors: "Radikal" reports that Turkey and  
Greece have reached an agreement on the Aegean air corridor.  
With the agreement, the number of air corridors will  
increase to 11 from 2. Paper notes that the agreement will  
result in considerable economic advantages for Turkey in the  
form of overflight revenues.

Headscarf Issue: "Radikal" reports that a suspect wearing a  
headscarf was asked by the presiding judge to leave the  
courtroom of the Court of Appeals in Ankara. Papers note  
that this incident launches a new chapter in the headscarf  
debate. Defense lawyers complained that the ruling could  
lead to significant numbers of defendants being left without

the means to defend themselves in Turkish courts. "Vatan" reports that the Turkish General Staff has started an investigation into the claim that two guests at the Republic Day reception at a Kayseri military club attended the event wearing headscarves.

Higher Education Board(YOK) Protests: Students clashed with police yesterday during protests against the Higher Education Board (YOK). Demonstrators called for the abolishment of YOK and attacked police trying to stop the demonstration. Fierce clashes between police and the demonstrators resulted in injury to 30 demonstrators and 10 police. 10 people were detained for their role in the demonstration.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION:

"From now on."

Sami Kohen commented in the mass appeal Milliyet (11/7): "Nothing much will change even if the opposition wins the elections in the Turkish Cypriot sector in December, because a solution without Denktas will not be possible. Therefore, Ankara must act now to do whatever is necessary for a solution. . It is time for the Turkish side to launch a diplomatic attack. The Turkish initiative must go beyond confidence-building measures and must include a new negotiation process and the presentation of creative and realistic proposals. . Turkey should not be expected to launch an initiative contrary to the interests of the Turkish Cypriots just to rid itself of the Cyprus problem. A solution is necessary because the Turkish side, too, will benefit from such a settlement."

"Cyprus an obstacle on Turkey's path"

Mehmet Ali Birand observed in the mass appeal Posta (11/7): "The EU Commission for the first time openly said that Turkey will be blocked on its way to EU accession unless the Cyprus problem is resolved. . We will have nothing to say if Turkey addresses the deficiencies that are highlighted in the EU Commission report, the Belgian Prime Minister. The message is clear: If Turkey really wants to get a date for membership negotiations, it must do whatever is necessary. . Turkey has taken significant steps forward. However, the EU Commission refrained from further encouraging Ankara, because the Europeans do not want to tip their hand regarding the November 2004 progress report. The real fight will be in 2004."

EDELMAN